

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system for updating an Instant Messaging (IM) application regarding a user of the IM application, wherein the updating is based on multimedia information, the system comprising:
 - an information capture module for capturing the multimedia information in the vicinity of a machine on which the user is using the IM application;
 - an information extraction and analysis module communicatively coupled with the information capture module, for extracting relevant information from the captured multimedia information; and
 - an information interpretation module communicatively coupled with the information extraction and analysis module, for interpreting the extracted and analyzed information for the IM application to (a) determine the presence of a user, and (b) determine a status of said user, wherein the interpreted information is used for updating the IM application to set forth the said status of the user beyond the presence and identity of the user; and
an Application Program Interface module for the IM application,
communicatively coupled to the information interpretation module, for receiving the interpreted information and updating the IM application regarding the user when present;
wherein the Application Program Interface module is configured to update the user's status on the IM application
2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia information comprises at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information.
3. (canceled)

1 4. (currently amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein ~~the Application~~
2 ~~Program-Interface module is configured to update~~ the user's status is updated in a buddy window
3 on the IM application.

1 5. (currently amended) The system of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the user's status
2 comprises at least one of available, busy, on the phone, and away from the desk.

1 6. (currently amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the Application
2 Program Interface module is configured to update the user's identity on the IM application.

1 7. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein updating the user's identity on the
2 IM application comprises logging out a previous user, and logging in the user on the IM
3 application.

1 8. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the information extraction and
2 analysis module employs face tracking techniques.

1 9. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the information extraction and
2 analysis module employs motion detection techniques.

1 10. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the information extraction and
2 analysis module employs face recognition techniques.

1 11. (currently amended) A method for updating an IM application regarding a
2 user based on captured multimedia information, the method comprising:
3 receiving the captured multimedia information;
4 extracting and analyzing relevant information from the captured multimedia
5 information;
6 interpreting the analyzed information for the IM application to (a) determine the
7 presence of a user, and (b) determine a status of said user when present;
8 providing the interpreted information to the IM application; and

9 updating the IM application based on the provided information to set forth the
10 said status of the user ~~beyond the presence and identity of the user.~~

1 12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the updating step
2 comprises:
3 updating the status of a user in a buddy window of the IM application.

1 13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the extracting and analyzing step
2 comprises tracking a face.

1 14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the extracting and analyzing step
2 comprises detecting motion.

1 15. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the updating step comprises:
2 updating the identity of the user of the IM application.

1 16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the extracting and analyzing step
2 comprises recognizing a face.

1 17. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the status of said
2 user comprises whether said user is on the phone.

1 18. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said updating is
2 performed only after a user trigger.

1 19. (previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein said multimedia data
2 includes audio data.

1 20. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 where said status of said user
2 is indicated as busy if said user is detected to be using a program other than IM or email.

21. (new) A system for updating an Instant Messaging (IM) application regarding a user of the IM application, wherein the updating is based on multimedia information, the system comprising:

an information capture module for capturing the multimedia information in the vicinity of a machine on which the user is using the IM application, said multimedia information including at least one of audio information, still image information, and video information;

an information extraction and analysis module communicatively coupled with the information capture module, for extracting relevant information from the captured multimedia information;

an information interpretation module communicatively coupled with the information extraction and analysis module, for interpreting the extracted and analyzed information for the IM application to (a) determine the presence of a user, and (b) determine a status of said user, wherein the interpreted information is used for updating the IM application to set forth said status of the user; and

an Application Program Interface module for the IM application, communicatively coupled to the information interpretation module, for receiving the interpreted information and updating the IM application regarding the user when present; wherein the Application Program Interface module is configured to update the user's status on the IM application;

wherein the user's status is updated in a buddy window on the IM application; wherein the user's status comprises at least one of available, busy, on the phone, and away from the desk.